

COLLINS FAMILY

Four Collins brothers and their families migrated to the area, first leasing land on Arkansas Lane. By 1876, they had moved into the new town of Arlington.

William Joseph Collins (1830-1905) was a farmer. His farm was in the vicinity east of present-day Collins Street and north of Division Street. He was often referred to as “Uncle Joe”, and was keenly interested in schools and education.

Rice Woods Collins (1838-1912) was a merchant. He opened The R. W. Collins & Co., a mercantile establishment located at the southwest corner of Center and Main Streets. As the need for a public well in the center of town became evident, R. W. took the lead in soliciting subscriptions for the cost of drilling. Unfortunately, the water was not drinkable because of the high mineral content. He was also a stockholder in Arlington College (UTA). His daughter, Mittie, was the first baby girl born in the new town.



Thomas B. Collins served a time as County Treasurer and was Mayor of the City of Arlington from 1902 until 1904. Among the items discussed during his term were a curfew law and an ordinance regulating the boarding of interurban electric cars

within the city limits.

Marshall Collins was in the real estate business. He also served as a school trustee for Arlington Independent School District after it was established.

In 1905, Arch Woods Collins (A. W.), son of William, played a significant roll in expanding the Arlington Light And Power Company, overseeing the installation of a system of water works all over the city. He was also one of several citizens who gave land for Arlington College in 1895. He continued to support Carlisle Military Academy in 1903 and Arlington Training School in 1913.



In March, 1909, Dr. Joseph Donald Collins, also son of William, had the water from the mineral well analyzed, and decided to build a

Sanitarium on South Center Street near Border, with the water used for treatment of patients.

Third generation Benton Carter Collins, descendant of Thomas B., served several years as City Secretary and is sometimes given credit for the naming of Collins Street.

The Collins Brothers left lasting impacts and a long line of descendants.

Inscription by Jerry Collins, descendant of Thomas B. Collins and JoAnn Somers, descendant of William Joseph Collins 2008

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Thomas B. Collins

Courtesy, City of Arlington

The Historical Mineral Well

Courtesy, Arlington Historical Society